

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 FEA-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06

ERDA-05 SAJ-01 MC-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 EPA-01 CEQ-01

/118 W

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R 171654Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4016

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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VIENNA FOR USIAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, PAK, ENRG

SUBJECT: MORE PRESS ON THE FRENCH/PAKISTAN NUCLEAR
PLANT DEAL

REF: A. PARIS 23034; B. PARIS 23116; C. PARIS 23202;
D. PARIS 23371

SUMMARY: FRENCH WEEKLIES, WHICH APPEARED MONDAY, GIVE
MIXED TREATMENT OF CONTROVERSY OVER PROPOSED PAKISTANI
REPROCESSING PLANT, WITH L'EXPRESS, AT LEAST, FOCUSING
SQUARELY ON DANGERS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. OTHERS
TOUCH ON THE QUESTION IN VARYING DEGREES WHILE CONTINU-
ING TO DRAG IN CHARGES THAT U.S. POSITION HAS, AT
LEAST IN PART, CRASS AND SELFISH MOTIVES -- E.G.,
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JEALOUSY OVER FRENCH NUCLEAR SALES, EFFORTS TO WIN

DELEGATES AT KANSAS CITY. THIS MIX -- EMOTIONAL, NATIONALISTIC STORIES, STORIES THAT COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY BLUR THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN REACTORS AND REPROCESSING PLANTS, AND AN OCCASIONAL THOUGHTFUL PIECE EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT PROLIFERATION -- IS PRETTY MUCH WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SEEING ALL WEEK, AS INDICATED IN REFTELS. END SUMMARY.

1. COVER OF THIS WEEK'S L'EXPRESS CARRIES PHOTO OF TECHNICIAN IN PROTECTIVE SUIT AND THE HEADLINE "ATOM AND POLLUTION: THE GREAT FEAR." IN ALL, MAGAZINE HAS NEARLY 10 PAGES ON HAZARDS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, INCLUDING PIECE ON ESCAPED GAS CLOUD NEAR MILAN AND -- SANDWICHED AMIDST ALL THIS -- "NUCLEAIRE: LE SCANDALE KISSINGER". AFTER DISCUSSING THE TEMPESTUOUS AND INDIGNANT FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO SECRETARY'S REMARKS, THIS PIECE SETS OUT CLEARLY THAT REPROCESSING PLANTS ARE MAINLY USEFUL FOR MAKING BOMBS, THAT THEY DO NOT SELL FOR MUCH, BUT THAT CERTAIN BUYER COUNTRIES INSIST ON INCLUDING THEM BEFORE THEY WILL AGREE TO PURCHASE MORE EXPENSIVE REACTORS. ARTICLE NOTES ARGUMENT BY SOME THAT PROLIFERATION IS INEVITABLE IN ANY CASE, BUT THAT AMERICANS ARE NOT YET RESIGNED TO THIS; ALSO THAT RED STAR, IN MOSCOW, CALLED ON FRENCH TO SIGN NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AT MOMENT KISSINGER STORY DOMINATED THE PAPERS. THIS ARTICLE GIVES DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT L'EXPRESS WISHES U.S. WELL IN ITS DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING TO STOP PROLIFERATION. WE NOTE THAT IN RECENT YEARS THIS MAGAZINE HAS HAD AT LEAST FOUR COVER STORIES ON NUCLEAR DANGERS AND TWO ON POLLUTION, AND THAT ITS DIRECTOR, J.J. SERVAN-SCHREIBER, LEFT THE GISCARD CABINET BECAUSE OF HIS OBJECTION TO FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING.

2. LE POINT CARRIES RATHER TESTY ONE-PAGE STORY, NOTING CHIRAC'S SPIRITED RESPONSE, AND ADDING: "FOR

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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THE FIRST TIME, PUBLICLY, THE FRANCE OF VALERIE GISCARD D'ESTAING PUT THE UNITED STATES IN HER PLACE." THIS ARTICLE ATTRIBUTES THREE MOTIVES TO THE SECRETARY'S STAND: 1) INTERNAL U.S. POLITICS, 2) COMMERCIAL COMPETITION, AND 3) DESIRE FOR MORE ADEQUATE CONTROLS TO PREVENT PROLIFERATION, PERHAPS OF A NATURE TO GIVE THE U.S. THE LAST WORD IN NUCLEAR TRANSACTIONS. THE WRITER CONCLUDES THAT WHEREAS KISSINGER'S THOUGHTS ON THIS LAST MATTER ARE NOT YET CLEAR, THE THOUGHTS OF JACQUES CHIRAC CERTAINLY ARE.

3. NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, WHOSE ORIENTATION IS CONSIDERABLY TO LEFT OF WEEKLIES ALREADY CITED, CARRIES MAJOR STORY TITLED "KISSINGER'S ULTIMATUM," ALONG WITH BOX EXPLAINING -- ALBEIT IN SOMEWHAT CONFUSING TERMS -- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REACTORS AND REPROCESSING PLANTS. NOUVEL OBS BASICALLY ASCRIBES SELFISH MOTIVES TO EVERYONE. SECRETARY MOTIVATED BY ELECTORAL AND COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS, CONGRESS (IN PASSING SYMINGTON AMENDMENT) BY COMMERCIAL ONES, THOSE WHO SEEK INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS BY DESIRE FOR U.S. DOMINATION. TOWARD END OF ARTICLE ONE FINALLY GETS TO THE POINT THAT THE FRENCH ARE EXPORTING DANGEROUS EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES THAT AMERICANS AND BRITISH REFUSE TO EXPORT, BUT THAT OTHERS WILL SOON HAVE THESE

THINGS, THAT FRENCH INDUSTRY MUST CAPTURE THE MARKETS
BEFORE OTHERS DO, AND THAT NO POLITICIAN OR PARTY
WOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO FIGHT THIS.

4. VALEURS ACTUELLES ATTRIBUTES U.S. POSITION TO
ELECTORAL CONSIDERATIONS, COMMERCIAL DISAPPOINTMENTS
IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, AND, FINALLY, STRATEGIC FEARS.
AS SO MANY OTHER STORIES IN THE FRENCH PRESS, THIS
ONE TENDS TO BLUR THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN REACTORS
AND REPROCESSING PLANTS. THE STORY ENDS BY NOTING
THAT THE U.S. HAS APPROVED THE SHIPMENT OF ENRICHED
URANIUM TO INDIA DESPITE THAT COUNTRY'S USE OF U.S.-
SUPPLIED HEAVY WATER TO BUILD HER FIRST BOMB.
GAMMON

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